



— State of —
North Dakota
Office of the Governor

John Hoeven
Governor

PROCLAMATION
AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS (ALS) AWARENESS MONTH
JUNE 2009

WHEREAS, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis or ALS - better known as Lou Gehrig's disease - is a progressive, fatal neuromuscular disorder that occurs when motor nerve cells cease to function and die; and

WHEREAS, the initial symptom of ALS is weakness of the skeletal muscles, especially those of the extremities; and

WHEREAS, as ALS progresses, the patient experiences difficulty in swallowing, talking and breathing, and eventually, ALS causes muscles to atrophy and the patient becomes a functional quadriplegic; and

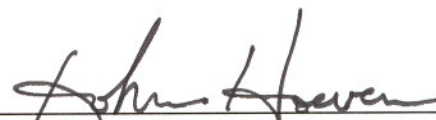
WHEREAS, ALS does not affect a patient's mental capacity, so the patient remains alert and aware of his or her loss of motor functions; and

WHEREAS, on average, patients diagnosed with ALS only survive two to five years from the time of diagnosis; and

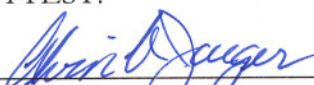
WHEREAS, ALS has no known cause, means of prevention or cure; and

WHEREAS, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month increases the public's awareness of ALS patients' circumstances and acknowledges the impact this disease has not only on the patient, but on his or her family and the community, and recognizes the research being done to eradicate this debilitating disease.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim June 2009, **AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS (ALS) AWARENESS MONTH** in the state of North Dakota.


John Hoeven
Governor

ATTEST:


Alvin A. Jaeger
Secretary of State